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SOURCE Trybuna Robotnicza.SEJM DISCUSSES ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS

STATE COUNCILS TO BECOME STATE AGENCIES -- Trybuna Robotnicza, No 36, 5 Feb 50

At the Legislative Sejm on 3 February, Premier Cyrankiewicz said that reforms are now under discussion for increased democratization of the national administration.

The state councils, which have become the training schools for mass government and have trained large socialist activist groups, are to become uniform government agencies in gminas, powiats, and wojewodztwos.

The proposed reform, an important step in building the fundamental structure of socialism in Poland, will be submitted to the Sejm as soon as possible.

The present structure of the administrative divisions is an accumulation of many periods and shows shocking disproportions. The enormous differences in area and population between the different wojewodztwos increase administrative difficulties and retard the development of the wojewodztwo. There are gminas in certain powiats which are as much as 50 kilometers distant from the starostwo [seat]. In gminas numbering 60 communities, some communities are 20 kilometers distant from the gmina seat.

The Office of State Councils and the Ministry of Public Administration are making a study of the problem to work out a proper basis for the proposals.

The purpose of the reform is to increase the people's authority in all administrative levels and gradually to adapt the administrative divisions to the economic structure, a problem now being studied.

The administration is today approving a measure which provides for the introduction of councils with some legislative power in the ministries and central administrations. The activities of these councils will permit a more systematic coordination and increase efficiency. Their legislative powers will not infringe on the ministries' sphere of authority.

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- 1 -

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INTERNAL SECURITY DECREE TO GO TO SEJM -- Trybuna Robotnicza, No 36, 5 Feb 50

A decree regarding security of official and state secrets was promulgated recently and will be submitted to the High Sejm for ratification. This decree defines the penalties for such carelessness and ought to be instrumental in reducing the number of apparently unintentional acts so harmful to the national security.

The general status of the national security has greatly improved. The militia and the ORMO were greatly responsible for reducing the number of crimes in 1949.

NEW JUDICIAL PROCEDURE -- Trybuna Robotnicza, No 36, 5 Feb 50

In the opinion of Premier Cyrankiewicz, as expressed in his speech to the Legislative Sejm on 3 February, the most important legislative reforms in the judicial branch were the modernization of regulations on criminal procedure, court-martial procedure, and certain changes in the law governing the organization of common (general) courts approved by the Sejm in April 1949.

The reforms in criminal procedure enable the courts and the prosecutors to concentrate on the more harmful offenses affecting the national economy. The reform in criminal procedure which introduces the participation of magistrates in criminal cases permits a more democratic administration of justice and increases the representation of working masses.

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- 2 -

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